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Big Hole National Battlefield Statement for Management

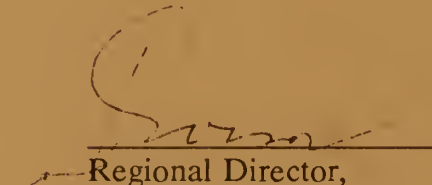
November 1992

Definition

The Statement for Management (SFM) provides an up-to-date inventory of the park's condition and an analysis of its problems. It does not involve any prescriptive decisions on future management and use of the park, but it provides a format for evaluating conditions and identifying major issues and information voids.

Recommended by: /s/ Jock Whitworth
Superintendent,
Big Hole National Battlefield

8/92
Date

Approved by: 
Regional Director,
Rocky Mountain Region

11/5/92
Date

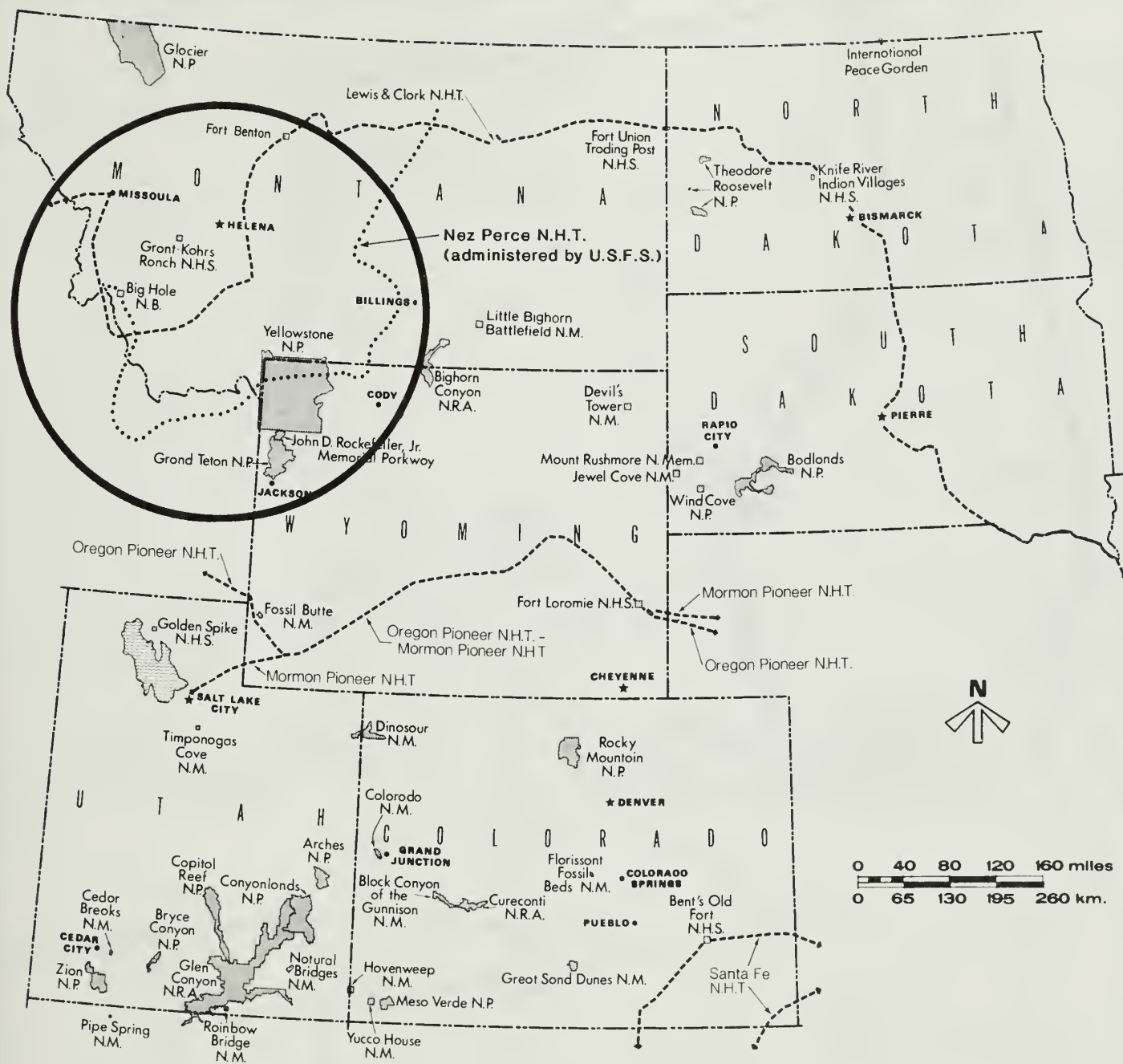
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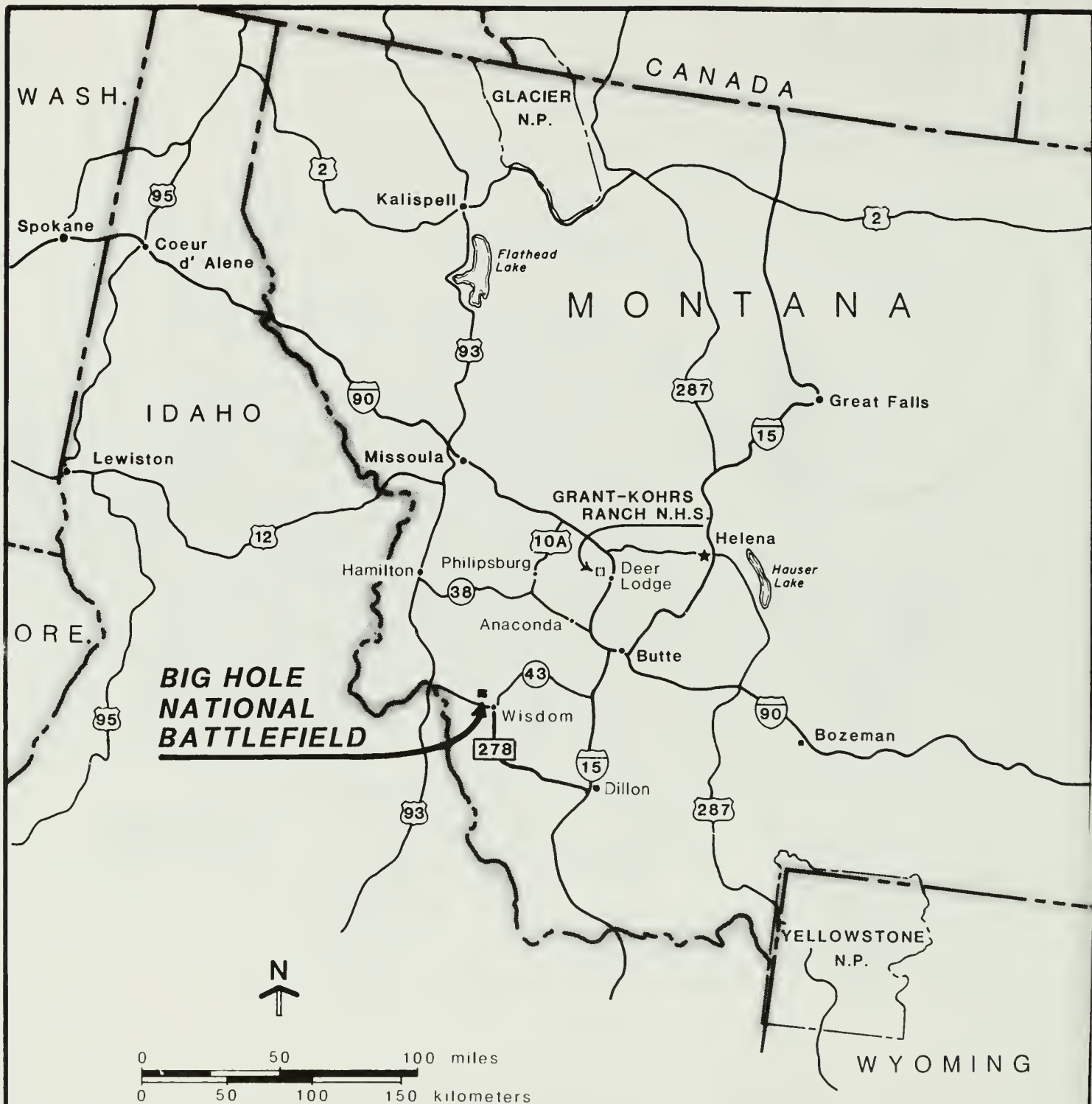
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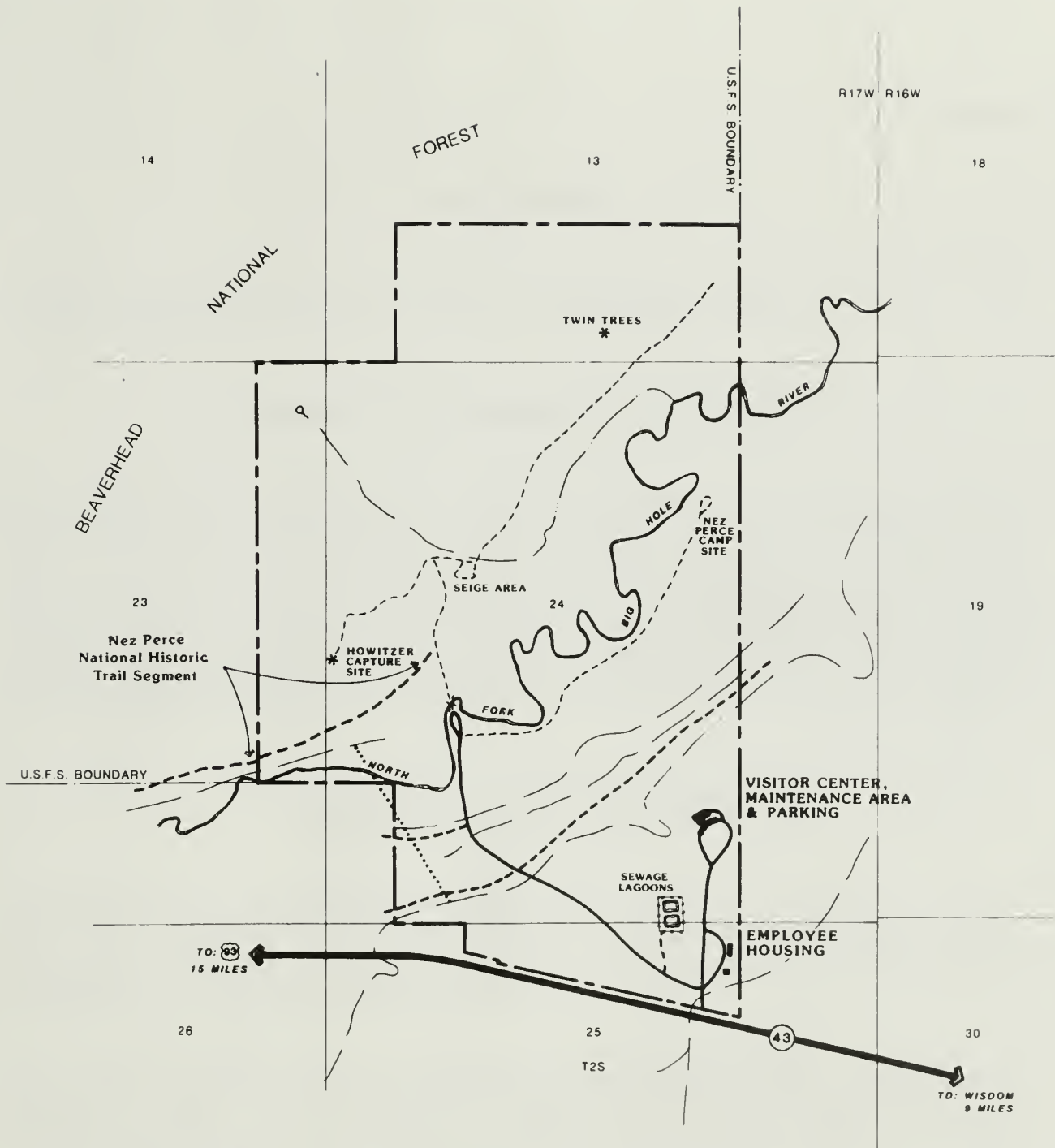




Vicinity Map

Big Hole National Battlefield

U.S. Dept. of the Interior - National Park Service




LEGEND

- NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD BOUNDARY
- PAVED ROAD
- - - UNPAVED ROAD
- ... TRAIL
- ~ IRRIGATION DITCH
- - - - - ABANDONED FLUME

BOUNDARY MAP

BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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LOCATION

Big Hole National Battlefield is in the state of Montana, in Beaverhead County. The national battlefield lies in Montana's At-Large Congressional District.

PRIMARY MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

Since Big Hole National Battlefield is a memorial to the Nez Perce Indians, the soldiers of the 7th U.S. Infantry, and the citizen volunteers that clashed at the devastating Battle of the Big Hole, the staff will continuously strive to preserve and protect the historic and archeological remnants of the battlefield and enhance opportunities for present and future employees and visitors from around the world, to gain an understanding of the cultures involved. The results should instill in visitors and employees an awareness of the events of the war and battle and the cost, in human lives and suffering, of the westward expansion of the United States.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Big Hole National Battlefield consists of 655.6 acres, of which 87 percent is in a historic zone. The battlefield began as a military reserve in 1883. It was redesignated as a national monument in 1910 and then removed from the national monument classification and redesignated as a national battlefield in 1963.

In 1883, the War Department reserved four sections of unsurveyed land "to mark the burial place of the soldiers who fell in the engagement." Executive Order 1216, of June 23, 1910, ordered "... 5 acres of unsurveyed land ... embracing the Big Hole Battlefield Monument in Beaverhead County, be, and the same is hereby reserved for military purposes for use in protecting said monument in accordance with the act of Congress approved June 8, 1906." Public Law 88-24, enacted May 17, 1963, redesignated the battlefield as Big Hole National Battlefield "In order to preserve historic features and sites associated with the Battle of the Big Hole and to facilitate their administration and interpretation . . ." in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "an Act to establish a National Park Service . . . which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects therein and to provide for the enjoyment of future generations."

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT - BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

House Report No. 92-243, 92nd Congress, 1st Session, December 10, 1971, stated "The Big Hole National Battlefield preserves part of the major scene of the 1877 battle between the Nez Perce Indian bands and the Army. Unlike the scene when the tragic battle took place nearly a century ago, a peaceful, natural setting now memorializes the soldiers and Indians who died here."

Big Hole National Battlefield is a memorial to the Nez Perce bands and the soldiers of the 7th U.S. Infantry who participated or died in the Battle of the Big Hole, August 9-10, 1877. It was a turning point of the Nez Perce War, which started June 15, 1877, and ended October 5, 1877, after a war-weary trail of 1,300 miles. Its national significance is as an example of Indian-White Relations, which illustrates the human price of the westward expansion of the nation.

Militarily, the Battle of the Big Hole was an overwhelming victory for the Nez Perce, who turned almost certain defeat into a clear victory. Although defeated, the Army knew full well that they had inflicted irreparable damage to the fighting abilities of the Nez Perce -- the loss of thirty warriors. The Nez Perce knew that, among other matters, the loss of warriors put them at a distinct disadvantage in any future encounters.

Big Hole National Battlefield represents the "Military-Indian Conflicts" theme of the mountains facet during the period from 1763 until 1898 of the National Park System Plan.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

To maintain the historic lands and the natural resources in such a way that they approximate the scene in 1877 when the battle occurred.

To make the historical (cultural) resource available and accessible to visitors and also protect the cultural resources from adverse impact and possible loss of data.

To promote archeological, historical, and biological research to provide accurate data for management and interpretation of the resources of Big Hole National Battlefield and related areas.

INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

To facilitate public understanding of the significance of the Battle of the Big Hole within the broader context of the Nez Perce War of 1877 through appropriate interpretive programs in the park.

To provide visitors with appropriate interpretation and understanding of the lives and feelings of the individuals involved on both sides.

To provide off-site interpretive programs during winter seasons to schools, organizations, and civic groups.

To continue to acquire copies of documents and collections related to the theme and purpose of the park, including the natural resources.

MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND SUPPORT

To cooperate with other federal, state, local agencies, and individuals, so that the resources of the park shall be protected from visual or physical intrusions.

MAJOR ISSUES

ADJACENT LAND ISSUES

Nez Perce National Historical Park Additions Act of 1991

A bill referred to as H. R. 2032 has been passed by the United States House of Representatives and a similar bill has been passed by the United States Senate. The bills would add twelve new sites to the Nez Perce National Historical Park, including Big Hole National Battlefield, Bear's Paw Battlefield, and Canyon Creek Battlefield. These three sites are in Montana, which is within the Rocky Mountain Region of the National Park Service. A verbal agreement between the Rocky Mountain Region and the Pacific Northwest Region would allow for the three sites in Montana to be administered by the Rocky Mountain Region. The parks in Montana would develop strong ties with the Nez Perce National Historic Park.

The House bill includes a reference to adding 150 acres to Big Hole National Battlefield, which would include the rest of the meadow that the Nez Perce were camped in and the gulch through which they retreated. In 1991, the House of Representatives directed the

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT - BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

National Park Service to contact the neighboring landowners to discuss the possibility of acquiring needed land. The landowner was contacted and stated he would be a willing seller, if the price was agreeable.

The other land adjacent to the battlefield is ranch land, with little visual impact; a private campground that is no longer in use; and the Beaverhead National Forest. The Forest Service has placed a high value on the scenic and historic qualities of their land adjacent to the battlefield and have been very cooperative in preventing activities that visually intrude on the site.

Protection of the archeological (cultural) resources from vandalism. A complete survey of the battlefield was conducted in 1991 to locate, record, and protect these resources.

In order to make proper natural resource plans and decisions, the battlefield will continue to maintain the baseline data of the botanical and vegetative studies started in 1982.

Baseline study of the fauna of the battlefield should be continued, especially during the fall, winter, and spring, to supplement the study completed in 1988.

Natural resource problems that need to be addressed:

The meandering river is eroding into the Nez Perce Camp Site; the riverbank is now approximately 15 feet back from where it was at the time of the battle. At present it does not create a problem, but requires repeated review to see if any changes have occurred.

The willows along the west bank of the river are not typical of those that were there at the time of the battle. The willows are oversized, full of dead wood, and have an obvious browse line from the period the land was in private ownership. Prior to the battle, natural fire passed through the willows about every 10 years, rejuvenating the above ground vegetation. A prescribed burn is scheduled for 1992 when the conditions of the prescription are met.

In 1987, logging activity returned the tree line on the hillside to approximately what it was at the time of the battle. The open areas on the hillside were burned in 1986 and 1988 to suppress the sagebrush growth and encourage the native grasses that had dominated the hillsides at the time of the battle. A vegetative resource management program with a prescribed fire plan needs to be established to keep the trees and sagebrush from encroaching again.

The beaver population is contributing to the erosion of the riverbanks. Their dams raise the water level to make what was dry river bottom at the time of the battle, very wet. This has changed the vegetative cover. The beaver population may be restrained but not eliminated. Control of the population will be done in association with the Montana Department of Fish, Game, and Parks.

Water rights in the state of Montana have been under adjudication since 1974, without resolve as of mid-1992. The National Park Service Water Rights Division has been monitoring the process and is working towards retaining water rights for the battlefield.

An irrigation dam upriver from the battlefield on Ruby Creek may be proposed. Park staff and the NPS Water Rights Division will need to monitor new proposals in order to resolve potential impacts on the battlefield and its water rights.

The active irrigation ditches, and activity associated with the right to maintain and repair them, are highly intrusive on the historic scene. A memorandum of understanding that is being pursued with the owners of the rights to provide for the passage of their waters through the battlefield will allow the park to minimize the visual impact of the ditches.

The geographic isolation of the battlefield requires a degree of operating self-sufficiency to serve the visitor needs and maintain the facilities. Though Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS now has administrative responsibilities over the battlefield, sufficient personnel with job skills, tools, equipment, supplies, and storage facilities to do the work are required to be on site. There is inadequate work space, storage space, and housing for the staff to safely and effectively carry out their responsibilities. The problem is compounded in the summer when the seasonal staff is on board. Some new housing is proposed for FY 1993-1994. More garage bays and office space are being requested through Repair-Rehab.

Severe winters cause faster weathering of buildings and facilities, which shortens the time between maintenance upkeep projects, particularly exterior painting.

Park facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Park funds were used in 1991 to retrofit the rest rooms.

Directional signing is inadequate or nonexistent on Highways 93, 43, and 278, and on I-15. A sign plan has been prepared and presented to the Montana Highway Department in Butte, Montana, for consideration and approval. As yet, no response has been received.

INFLUENCES: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

There are no development ceilings.

Executive Order number 1216 -- June 23, 1910 reserved 5 acres of unsurveyed land for military purposes for use in protecting said monument.

Proclamation number 2339 -- June 29, 1939 -- 53 Stat. 2544 set aside 195 acres as Big Hole Battlefield National Monument to be supervised, managed, and controlled as provided in the act of Congress entitled "An act to establish a National Park Service . . ." August 25, 1916.

Public Law 88-24; 77 Stat. 18, May 17, 1963, as amended by Section 101 (2) Public Law 92-272, 86 Stat. 120, April 11, 1972, appropriated sums not to exceed \$42,500 for acquisition and interests in land consisting of approximately 466 acres.

A memorandum of understanding dated 1987 between Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site and Big Hole National Battlefield identifying Grant-Kohrs as the administrative unit and outlining the responsibilities of each unit.

The entire park is on the National Register of Historic Places, with the application recorded on August 4, 1984.

An interagency agreement between the USDA Forest Service, Beaverhead National Forest and the USDI National Park Service, Big Hole National Battlefield to: Jointly plan and execute trail development projects and public information programs regarding segments of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; jointly plan for the recruiting and development of the YCC program when such program is available; jointly plan and execute vegetation manipulation projects, primarily through prescribed fire for the management of vegetation on both national park and national forest lands; and to work together in providing the general public with visitor information services and materials regarding each agency's recreation opportunities and other programs.

A letter of understanding between the Clemow Ranch and the National Park Service to meet at least annually to discuss items of mutual interest and/or concern and for Clemow Ranch to notify the NPS one year in advance of any maintenance needed on the northeast irrigation ditch.

There are deed reservations for rights-of-way for four irrigation ditches that cross the park. Three cross from the southwest to the northeast on the southwest slope of the valley and are bounded by the floodplain and the top of the Ruby Plateau or Bench.

Ditch Number 1 is the Ruby Creek Ditch along the very bottom of the slope where it joins the plain of the valley. It is incorporated as the Ruby Creek Water Company and had been functioning decades before the specific location was acquired by the National Park Service.

Ditch Number 2 is the Trail Creek Irrigation Ditch. It was abandoned and the 2,100-foot overhead flume and trestles that had been a part of it were gone when the park acquired the land in 1963. In 1982, the National Park Service received a proposal from the Trail Creek Ditch Association to reactivate the ditch. The field solicitor has advised that the original ditch right-of-way was issued in perpetuity and is therefore still valid. The Trail Creek Ditch Association is presently exploring alternatives, one of which would route the reactivated ditch entirely around the park, however there has been no activity since 1986.

Ditch Number 3, the North Fork Ranches, Inc., Ditch, flows along the upper portion of the slope. It was constructed sometime after 1935 while all the land involved was part of a private ranch. The North Fork Ranches, Inc., Ditch has been in use almost annually. It has been subject to major breaks in the berm, which produce extensive flood damage to the park, as well as the ditches below. The North Fork Ranch was sold in 1988. The new ranch manager plans to maintain the ditch to prevent further breaks.

Ditch Number 4 crosses a very short stretch in the southeast corner of the park at the entrance road and is owned by the adjacent ranch to the east -- Monte Clemow Ranches, Inc.

A fifth ditch enters the park at the northeast corner of the park for a distance of 1,940 feet and connects with a meandering portion of the North Fork of the Big Hole River.

A letter of understanding was signed by Monte Clemow and the superintendent on October 6, 1988, stating "It is further understood that the Clemow Ranch will notify the NPS one year in advance of any maintenance needed on the ditch. This should allow the parties adequate time to discuss options available to achieve the desired maintenance and at the same time have the least possible impact upon battlefield resources."

The United States government owns the subsurface mineral rights on all but 39 percent of the land (255.61 acres), which is shared as an undivided half-interest with private parties.

The United States owns all the surface rights within the legislated boundaries of Big Hole National Battlefield.

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT - BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Though the battle took place so many miles from their homeland, the Nez Perce consider the battlefield a sacred ground. For other tribes, the area was a no-man's land, used only by traveling tribes on a temporary basis. The battle is a very significant and emotional part of the Nez Perce cultural history and heritage. As such, it is park policy to exert great sensitivity to the Nez Perce Indians, but not to the exclusion of others. Because of the great distance between the battlefield and the Nez Perce and Colville Reservations, contacts with the Nez Perce are critical. The park staff contacts the tribe to gain input and identify concerns on projects and plans that may interest them. Individual Nez Perce traveling to or through the area visit the park and may make themselves known to the staff. Since 1988, Nez Perce tribal members have been working at the park, providing programs on tribal issues, perspectives on the war, and input on management issues.

Big Hole National Battlefield is involved with three national trails. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail crosses over Lost Trail Pass on the Idaho-Montana border, 16 miles west of the battlefield, and returns along the route Clark's party took through the Big Hole Basin on their return trip. The Continental Divide Trail passes along the Anaconda-Pintlar range and then along the Bitterroot Mountains on the west side of the Big Hole Basin. The trail is about 7 miles west of the battlefield. More directly related is the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail, which passes through the battlefield as it traces the route of the Nez Perce War of 1877.

RESOURCES

Big Hole National Battlefield is astride a western tributary valley of the Big Hole Basin. The vegetation varies, from stands of second-growth lodgepole pine on the slopes of Battle Mountain (on the north) to willow swamps and grasslands on the banks of the meandering North Fork of the Big Hole River, which courses the middle of the valley. Battle Mountain forms the northwest side of the valley, while Ruby Bench forms the southeast side. Battle Mountain exposes the southeast face and is covered with a mixed lodgepole-pine forest; however, the lower slope has a treeless, grassy, open area of approximately 95 acres. Ruby Bench is a tableland formation, mostly of glacial alluvial deposits, covered by sagebrush and grass. Trail Creek and Ruby Creek cross the west boundary of the park and quickly join to form the North Fork of the Big Hole River, which leaves the battlefield to the northeast.

The topography of the battlefield is quite varied within the small area. The landforms of today are shaped much as they were at the time of the battle, with the exception of the irrigation ditches. Prior to 1877, regional Indians, including the Nez Perce, used the area as a sort of outdoor supermarket for their needs. Lodgepoles were plentiful, fishing potential was good, and large game animals were abundant.

From 1877 to 1986, vegetation growth and evolution made significant changes to the vegetational cover that existed during the time of the battle. Scientific and historical studies conducted in 1982 concluded that the changes were directly related to the removal of natural fires from the ecosystem. The park cultural resource management program reintroduced fire into the ecology, along with selective removal of designated trees, to recreate historic vegetative patterns. Prescribed burns were conducted in 1986, 1988, and 1992 on the battlefield, and in 1987, on adjacent Beaverhead National Forest land. Approximately 8,000 trees that had encroached upon grasslands since the time of the battle were cut in 1986 and 1987. They were skidded over the snow in March 1988 and removed that summer.

The willows along the river bottom were young sprouts during the battle and easily traveled through by man and animals. This is not now the case. They are still in the same location, but the growth above ground is decadent. The willows contain large, woody growths with more dead twigs and branches than ever before. A fire record shows that fire ran through the willows about every 10 years, prior to the battle. This rejuvenated the vegetation. A prescribed fire is planned, which will burn approximately 195 acres of the willows and restore them to a condition similar to that of the time of the battle.

Beaver families have built large dams that raise the water level and change the vegetation. Five beaver dams were removed in 1984 to reduce the impact on the historic scene. Beaver will continue to impact sections of the river bottom on which the battle took place. Further reductions in the number of beaver within the battlefield may be necessary. This would be accomplished in cooperation with the Montana Fish, Game, and Parks Department.

There are no rare or endangered species requiring special protection by law, though bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are occasionally sighted. One plant found on the battlefield, the *Penstemon lemhiensis*, is listed as very scarce and receives protection from park activities. Grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) are listed as rare inhabitants of the Anaconda-Pintlar range to the north of the battlefield.

The vegetation management that has taken place also improved the wildlife habitat in the park. After the willow burn is completed, the park will need a long-term resource management program to maintain the approximate historic scene of 1877. Follow-up studies of the changes and recovery of the flora and fauna as a result of the reintroduction of fire into the ecology will provide valuable data on which to base the goals and objectives of the resource management plan.

A magnetometer survey of selected portions of the battlefield was conducted by Douglas D. Scott, Midwest Archeological Center, in July 1987. The survey produced mixed results, primarily identifying previously known features.

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT - BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

In 1991, an archeological inventory of the entire battlefield was planned and conducted by the Midwest Archeological Center and battlefield staff. The project was funded by Hank Williams, Jr., who owns a ranch near the battlefield and who has a strong interest in archeology and history. The Nez Perce Tribe was consulted throughout the planning and implementation stage of the inventory.

The techniques and methods used in the fieldwork and analysis were developed during the Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument inventories conducted in the 1980s. Metal detectors were used in a grid to recover over 1,000 items related to the battle. Analysis of the artifacts is currently under way, revealing much about the skirmish, sniper, and retreat lines, and revealing many other details of the battle.

The inventory completed the archeological survey of the entire battlefield, as mandated by Executive Order 11593. Test trenches were excavated in one of the soldier's trenches and confirmed that they were constructed according to the military manuals of the day. A Nez Perce camas oven was discovered, as was the burial site of a young Nez Perce woman. Close cooperation and consultation was conducted with the Nez Perce Tribe, resulting in the excavation and reburial of her remains at the request of the tribe.

Over 2,000 cultural items have been catalogued into the park's museum collection, including personal items, photographs, equipment, accoutrements of battle participants, and other period items. The inventory conducted in 1991 will eventually result in over 1,000 items being added to the collection. The Midwest Archeological Center is responsible for accessioning and cataloging the items and storing them until there is sufficient space for them at the battlefield.

Care for and protection of the cultural items in an emergency is of primary concern. Proper procedures are described in the park Emergency Operations Manual.

Big Hole National Battlefield is a class II air quality area. Air quality is not monitored.

There are four historical (cultural) resource areas within the battlefield. Two related resource areas are in the adjacent Beaverhead National Forest and one on private land to the south of the battlefield.

The Nez Perce Camp

The fleeing Nez Perce bands set up a camp of 89 tepees late in the afternoon of August 8th. They chose a large grassy area on the east bank of the river, near what is now the northeast boundary of the battlefield. The Nez Perce Camp Trail, a 1.6-mile, round-trip interpretive trail, tours the camp starting from the battle area parking lot.

The Siege Area

After the infantry occupied the Nez Perce camp, Nez Perce snipers made further possession of the camp by the military unwise. The military retreated across the river, through the willows and swamps of the Battle Zone, to an area of lodgepole pines that projects down from the mountainside. Here they set up a tight defensive square using fallen timber as breastworks. During the siege the soldiers dug pits and trenches, which are still visible. The Siege Area Trail, a .8-mile, round-trip interpretive trail, tours the Siege Area starting from the battle area parking lot.

The Battle Zone

The Battle Zone is the area used by the troops in route to the attack and during the retreat. The area consists of the river, willow thickets, and swamp -- about 200 feet wide and the length of the battlefield holdings. The actual Battle Zone is between the Nez Perce Camp and the Siege Area. The Twin Sniper Trees on Battle Mountain are also considered part of the Battle Zone. There are no trails in the willow thickets or swamp.

The Howitzer Capture Site

A secondary event to the battle was the arrival of a 12-pound mountain howitzer and its subsequent capture and dismantling by a group of Nez Perce warriors. More significant was the associated capture by the warriors of 2,000 rounds of rifle ammunition near the howitzer capture site. The loss of ammunition was a disaster for the troops and a boon to the Nez Perce. Public access to the area is by way of a 1-mile, round-trip spur trail from the Siege Area Trail.

Related Resources in the Adjacent Beaverhead National Forest

Trail to the Battle Site. All participants followed the same basic trail to the battle site -- the Nez Perce, Colonel Gibbon, and General Howard. The Nez Perce followed a hunting party route from Ross' Hole on the west side of the Bitterroot Range, over what is now called Gibbon Pass, to the battle site. The same route was followed by the forces of Colonel Gibbon, although the infantry's passage was more arduous because of the wagons

and mountain howitzer, combined with their urgency to cover the distance quickly to catch up with the Nez Perce. This route is now part of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.

Wagon Train Camp. Colonel Gibbon camped for a night in a hidden ravine just off the Indian trail about 5 miles from the Nez Perce camp (approximately at Placer Creek). The howitzer and gun crew were left behind with most of the horses, extra supplies and the parked wagon train. The crew was ordered to depart for the battle at dawn with the howitzer and a reserve supply of rifle ammunition. As the crew approached the battle site, a group of Nez Perce warriors on horseback immediately spotted them, rushed their position, and captured the howitzer and ammunition. The Beaverhead National Forest Land Use Plan gives consideration to the protection of the scenic values of Big Hole National Battlefield and the related areas.

Related Resources on Private Land South of the Battlefield

The site of the Nez Perce camp on the night of August 9, 1877, following the battle is said to be on the Peterson Ranch, approximately 16 miles south of the battlefield. Stone rifle pits constructed by the Nez Perce are present at that site.

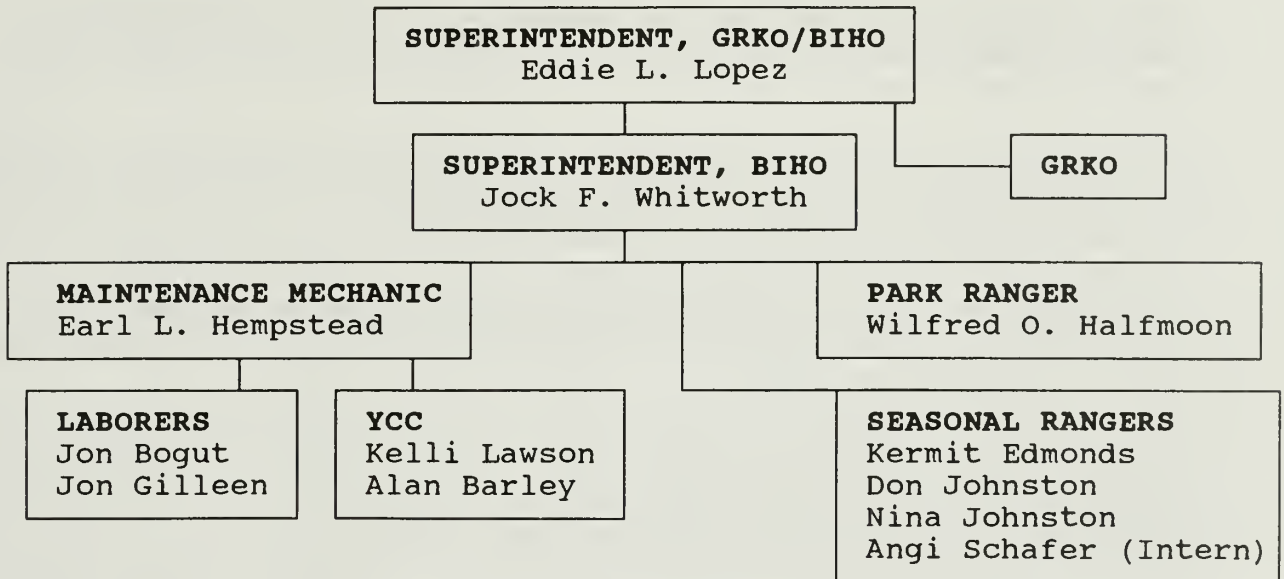
Current problems of protecting these cultural resources fall into two categories. The obvious one is that of the relic hunter -- the "pot hunter" -- who has the means of modern metal detectors to locate the expended shells. These shells provide data for the precise location of on-the-scene actions that cannot be determined by other means. The sites on the national forest are not expected to have many cultural resources -- such as the wagon train camp, which was destroyed at the turn of the century when a gold dredge operated in that location. Within the battlefield, the park must be alert to the secret presence of relic hunters.

The second category of cultural loss is that of the destruction of ground cover that was present at the time of the battle, or ground cover that now covers and protects portions of the battlefield where artifacts may exist. Mitigating archeological inventories are scheduled in these areas after the prescribed burns.

Staff Resources

Big Hole National Battlefield is administered as a unit under Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS in Deer Lodge, Montana, 88 miles away. The following is a breakdown of the on-site staff at the battlefield.

Big Hole National Battlefield Organizational Chart



STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT - BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

Big Hole National Battlefield has three permanent FTEs and two seasonal FTEs. The permanent staff includes two non-minority men and one minority (Nez Perce) man. All three live in park housing.

The superintendent/unit manager has been at the park since January 1988, and is eligible for and interested in a transfer to another superintendency of a small park or a chief ranger or chief of interpretation position at a medium-sized park.

The maintenance mechanic (chief of maintenance) is working on his second tour at the park, totaling seven years. He is career-minded and qualified for a maintenance foreman position at a medium-sized park.

The GS-5 park ranger has worked at the battlefield since 1990, first as a cooperative education trainee, then as a permanent full-time park ranger. His is a trainee position, with a possible goal of chief of interpretation and resource management.

The seasonal staff includes two men over 50, one woman over 50, and two non-minority men in their twenties. Three of the seasonals live at the park, and two of them live 10 miles away, in the town of Wisdom, Montana.

Two of the seasonal employees are interested in careers in the maintenance field and are well qualified. They have received significant career counseling and guidance, but no career opportunities have developed.

LAND USES AND TRENDS

All lands within the authorized boundary of the national battlefield are in the fee ownership of the United States. The park measures 655.6 acres. The park is 85 miles southwest of Butte, Montana, and about 230 road miles west of Yellowstone National Park.

Three elements dominate the regional economy -- ranching, forest products, and recreation. Farming and mining are minimal. The battlefield and its visitation supplements the tourism business of the area and poses no competition or conflict with other sectors of the regional economy. Local interests and influence, in addition to the Big Hole basin, include Beaverhead and Ravalli counties of Montana, and Lemhi County of Idaho. Larger regional interests include Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, and Madison counties of Montana. The battlefield is a significant historic feature for national, state, and local history. Travelers frequently coordinate visits to the battlefield with Bannock State Park or the Fort Owen and St. Mary's Mission sites in Ravalli County. The battlefield is a destination park for many regional visitors, though its visitation is mainly supplementary to other vacation activities, such as extended summer vacations, guest-ranching, and fishing. Visitation is a diversionary

activity in the off-season for hunting parties in the fall and ski area patrons in the winter. In the spring and fall, the battlefield is a field trip destination for schools from western Montana and adjacent areas in Idaho.

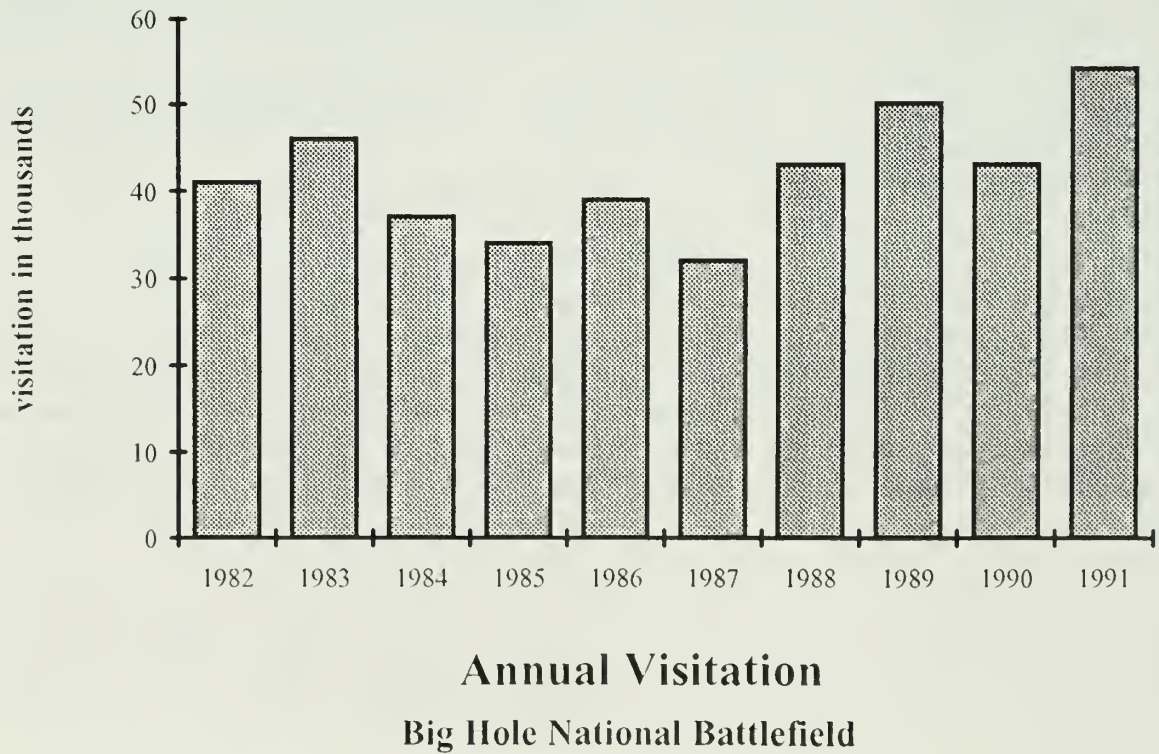
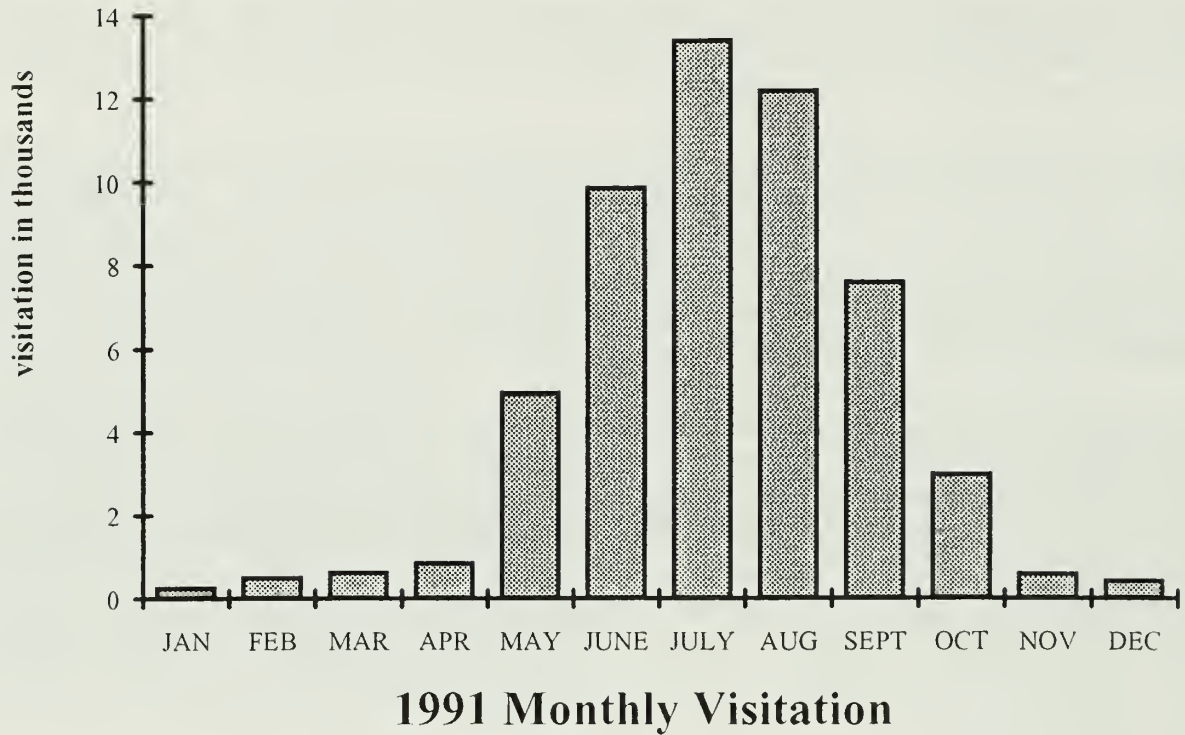
Adjacent land use and mutual influences are compatible. Privately owned grazing land is to the east and to the south across the highway. The land adjacent to the battlefield to the north and northwest is part of the Beaverhead National Forest. The Forest Service is concerned about the visual impact of actions upon the forested slopes of the Big Hole basin in their land use planning. The existence of the battlefield is considered; although, it does not necessarily change their general planning.

Across the Continental Divide to the west are the Salmon National Forest (Idaho) and the Bitterroot National Forest (Montana). The National Forests offer many recreational opportunities, which generate considerable interest in the region and directly contribute to the interest in visitation of the battlefield. Overnight accommodations are available throughout the region, but with a small capacity except for the larger towns such as Butte, Dillon, and Hamilton, in Montana and Salmon, in Idaho. Camping areas are available throughout the region, although a number are well off the main roads. Given the existing accommodations and campgrounds, there is no need to establish overnight facilities within the battlefield.

Battlefield visitation is supplemental to other regional recreational activities. The Big Hole, Beaverhead, Bitterroot, and Salmon rivers are widely advertised for trout fishing. Hunters come for deer, elk, and moose in the cooler part of the fall. Sight-seeing, pack trips, river-float trips, and guest ranches make up a significant amount of the regional recreational activities. Three ski areas with chair lifts operate in the winter: Lost Trail; Maverick Mountain; and Discovery Basin.

Bannock State Park is within 58 miles of the battlefield. Bannock was the first territorial capital of Montana. Established as a mining town in 1862, it became the territorial capital in 1864. An extensive restoration program is making Bannock an increasing recreational attraction. There are three established wilderness areas within 50 miles: Selway-Bitterroot, Anaconda Pintlar, and the Frank Church River of No Return. There are also three wilderness study areas in the area: Pioneer Primitive Area, West Big Hole, and the Salmon Breaks Primitive Area. An expansion proposal has been submitted for the Anaconda Pintlar.

STATEMENT FOR MANAGEMENT - BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD



VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

Visitors enter the southeast corner on Ruby Bench and drive to the visitor center, which overlooks the battlefield in the valley below. A side road provides access to a parking area on the valley floor, from which short walks lead to the Siege Area, Howitzer Capture Site, Nez Perce Camp Trail, and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Only 18 percent of the visitors to the battlefield fail to go to the visitor center. Most of those visitors arrive after hours. Of the visitors who do enter the battlefield, 82 percent go to the visitor center to see the exhibits and listen to the audio stations. Approximately 76 percent see the audiovisual program. Visitor use has been increasing for four years, with record visitation in 1991.

Peak visitation is from May through September when the visitor center is open 12 hours a day. The rest of the year the visitor center is open 9 hours a day. The road to the Battle Area is closed in the winter because of snow, though cross-country skiing provides access to the trails. The average visitor stays from one to four hours per visit. The peak visitation year to date was 1991, with 54,065 visitors.

Montanans account for 27 percent of the visitors, while visitors from Idaho, California, and Washington make up from 9 percent to 12 percent each. Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Texas account for 2 percent to 4.4 percent each. Arizona, Wyoming, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Nevada account for another 1 percent each. Foreign visitors account for 4.5 percent of the visitation. These trends have been fairly consistent for the past four years.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS

Nonhistoric Roads and Trails

Paved road	2.0 miles
Unpaved road	.1 miles
Primitive road	.8 miles
Trails	2.2 miles
Parking area	60 cars

One foot bridge crosses the North Fork of the Big Hole River.

Nonhistoric Buildings and Facilities

Visitor center	4,086 square feet
Fire-pumper storage	162 square feet

Residences	
Quadruplex	3,493 square feet
Modular home	1,152 square feet

Utility System

Waterlines total 2,340 feet of pipe, and the water comes from a 250-foot-deep well. The system includes a 50,000-gallon underground water storage tank.

The sewage system has 3,664 feet of pipeline connecting to two small lagoons, and an infrequently used back-up evapo-transpiration system.

The radio system consists of four hand-held Motorola units and one GE hand-held unit with a vehicle adaptor.

Telephone services are provided by the Southern Montana Telephone Company.

Power is supplied by the Vigilante Electric Cooperative (REA). A park-owned diesel generator is on site to provide power in the event of a power failure.

Historic Structures

The four irrigation ditches total 2.1 miles and parts of them are now old enough to be considered historic structures.

Major Park Equipment

Pickup	1 ton Dodge 4X4
Tractor	diesel 37 hp
Garden tractor	17 hp
Wildfire pumper on a trailer	150 gal.
Daihatsu utility vehicle	4X4

STATUS OF PLANNING

Name of Plan/Study	Preparer	Date Approved	Adequacy	Repository
Master Plan	WODC	1962	Obsolete	DSC
Resource Mgmt Plan	Prk/RMRO	1987	Inadequate	
Interpretive Prospectus	Park	1964	Obsolete	
Biological Fauna Survey	U. of WY	1988	Complete	Park
Water Rights Study	RMRO/ WRB	Ongoing		
General Mgmt Plan	Prk/RMRO	Scheduled for 1993		

EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING

Since the battlefield is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is classified as a Historic Zone with secondary Development and Special Use Zones.

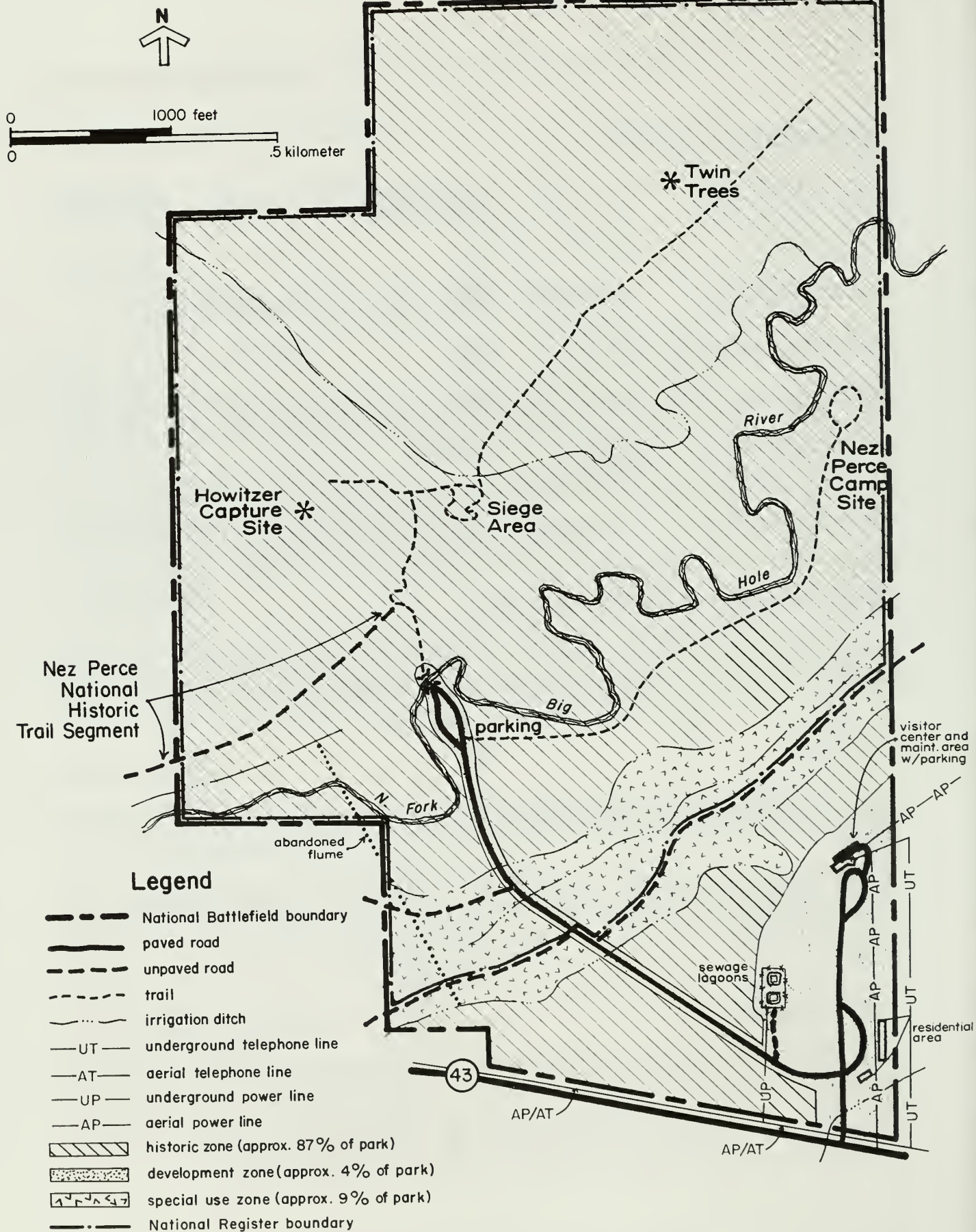
Historic Zone

Physical development in historic zones is limited to the minimum amount needed to preserve, protect, and interpret historical, cultural, or archeological values.

Present development within this zone includes the Battle Area Road and parking area, the Siege Area Interpretive Trail, the Howitzer Capture Site Interpretive Trail, the Nez Perce Camp Interpretive Trail, and a section of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail.

Development Zone

These lands consist of nonhistoric park development and intensive use. The zone provides and maintains developments that serve the needs of park management and park visitors. When the battlefield was enlarged in 1963, the top of Ruby Bench was added to provide the developed area. It contains the entrance road, the visitor center, the employees' residence, the sewage lagoons, and the access road to the Battle Area parking lot.



EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING MAP **BIG HOLE NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD - MONTANA**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Special Use Zone

Although the park owns the land, the deeds reserve the private use of four irrigation ditches and the right of access to maintain and repair them. Three ditches are on the slope of Ruby Bench, which includes a service road. The private water right owners' vehicles wander this Special Use Zone to maintain the ditches. The ditches on the northeast and southeast corners of the battlefield do not have service roads. Each ditch has a different combination of right claimants.

APPENDIX

8. Big Hole Battlefield National Monument

	Page
Reservation of area for military purposes, for use in protecting monument, pursuant to Antiquities Act: Executive Order (No. 1216) of June 23, 1910.....	124
Enlarging the area: Proclamation (No. 2339) of June 29, 1939.....	124

EXECUTIVE ORDER

[No. 1216—June 23, 1910]

It is hereby ordered that the E½ of the NE¼ of the SE¼ of the NW¼, sec. 24, T. 2 S., R. 17 W., Montana, containing 5 acres of unsurveyed land, as represented upon the accompanying diagram, embracing the Big Hole Battlefield Monument in Beaverhead County, be, and the same is hereby, reserved for military purposes for use in protecting said monument, in accordance with the act of Congress approved June 8, 1906 (34 Stats., 225).

WM. H. TAFT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
June 23, 1910.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 2339—June 29, 1939—53 Stat. 2544]

WHEREAS the unsurveyed E½ NE¼ SE¼ NW¼ sec. 24, T. 2. S., R. 17 W., P. M., Montana, was reserved by Executive Order No. 1216 of June 23, 1910, as the Big Hole Battlefield Monument;

WHEREAS upon survey it has been found that the area intended to be reserved by that Executive order is the five-acre tract designated as the "Big Hole Battlefield Monument" on General Land Office supplemental plat of the survey of sec. 24, approved July 19, 1917, and described by metes and bounds as follows:

Beginning at a point S. 0°1' W., 5.00 chs. and N. 89°42' E., 3.00 chs. from the northwest sixteenth-section corner of Sec. 24, T. 2 S., R. 17 W., M. P. M.; thence S. 0°2' W., 10.00 chs.; S. 89°42' W., 5.00 chs.; N. 10 chs.; N. 89°42' E., 5.0 chs; to point of beginning;

WHEREAS it appears that certain public lands within the Beaverhead National Forest, adjacent to the Big Hole Battlefield Monument, are historic landmarks, forming a part of the battle grounds where Chief Joseph and a band of Nez Perce Indians were defeated by a detachment of United States Soldiers;

WHEREAS certain other public lands within the aforesaid national forest are contiguous to the said national monument and are necessary for the proper care, management, and protection of the historic landmarks included within the monument; and

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve all of the aforesaid public lands as a part of the said national monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the act of June 4, 1897, 30 Stat. 11, 36 (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 473), and the

act of June 8, 1906, c. 3060, 34 Stat. 225 (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 431), do proclaim that the above-mentioned Executive Order of June 23, 1910, is hereby construed in conformity with the supplemental plat of survey approved July 19, 1917, to embrace the tract described above by metes and bounds, as well as the area erroneously reserved thereby; and that the hereinafter-described lands are hereby excluded from the Beaverhead National Forest and, subject to valid existing rights, added to and made a part of the said monument, which is hereby designated as the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument:

MONTANA PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

T. 2 S., R. 17 W., sec. 24, lots 1 and 2, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 23, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

comprising 195 acres.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The Director of the National Park Service under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management, and control of the monument as provided in the act of Congress entitled "An act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535, U. S. C., title 16, secs. 1 and 2), and acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 29th day of June in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-third.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

By the President:

CORDELL HULL,
The Secretary of State.

BIG HOLE BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL MONUMENT

PUBLIC LAW 88-24; 77 STAT. 18

[S. 138]

An Act to redesignate the Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, to revise the boundaries thereof, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That:

The Big Hole Battlefield National Monument, established by Executive Order Numbered 1216 of June 23, 1910, and enlarged by Proclamation Numbered 2339 of June 29, 1939, is hereby redesignated as the Big Hole National Battlefield.

Sec. 2. In order to preserve historic features and sites associated with the Battle of the Big Hole and to facilitate their administration and interpretation, the boundaries of the Big Hole National Battlefield are hereby revised to include the following described lands:

MONTANA PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN

Township 2 south, range 17, west: Section 13, southwest quarter southeast quarter, southeast quarter southwest quarter, east half southwest quarter southwest quarter; section 23, east half northeast quarter southeast quarter; section 24, west half east half, north half southwest quarter, southeast quarter southwest quarter, east half southwest quarter southwest quarter; section 25, those portions of the northeast quarter northwest quarter and the northwest quarter northeast quarter lying north of the north right-of-way line of relocated Montana State Route 43; consisting of approximately 466 acres.

Sec. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior may acquire by donation, purchase, exchange, or otherwise, lands and interests in lands within the area described in section 2 of this Act.

(b) Any lands described in section 2 of this Act that are a part of the Beaverhead National Forest when this Act takes effect are hereby excluded from the forest and added to the Big Hole National Battlefield.

(c) Lands included in the Big Hole National Battlefield pursuant to this Act shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-3), as amended and supplemented.

Sec. 4. There is hereby retroceded to the State of Montana, effective when accepted by said State in accordance with its laws, such jurisdiction as has been ceded by such State to the United States over any lands within the boundaries of the Big Hole National Battlefield reserving in the United States, however, concurrent legislative jurisdiction over such lands.

Sec. 5. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums not exceeding \$20,000 as are necessary for the acquisition of lands and interests in land pursuant to this Act.

Approved May 17, 1963.

